Whitman Shootings Recalled

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) — The sniper shootings at a hotel in New Orleans recalled the Charles Whitman sniper shootings of Aug. 1, 1966.

On that date, Whitman climbed to the observation deck of the tower of the University of Texas' main building and used an arsenal of rifles and pistols to kill 13 persons and wound 31.

Whitman first killed his mother and his wife and then, from his perch in the tower, he fired for 92 minutes at anyone within range and sight.

In all, Whitman killed 17 persons that day, two of the wounded dying later in the week.

The 6-foot, 200-pounder met his death after being blasted at close range with shotgun and pistol fire.

The 25-year-old Whitman, from Lake Worth, Fla., died crumpled against a wall of the tower's observation deck, still clutching an MI carbine.

"His finger was still on the trigger," Allen J. Crum, an ex-Air Force sergeant recalled later.

Austin Police Chief Bob Miles said he believed Whitman wanted to wait two minutes later to begin firing during a class break when the wide malls around the tower would be jammed with students.

But he encountered a family of tourists and a receptionist and shot them to get his footlocker of weapons to the high deck.

The end came when Crum fired a rifle shot at Whitman "to let him know we were there. If he wanted to surrender he could. If not, he'd have to fight it out."

One policeman emptied his pistol and another fired twice with a shotgun to surprise Whitman from an opposite side.